

How Soldiers are Made.

Give us some idea about an American volunteer regiment of soldiers and tell how long it takes to make one fit to meet regular troops in battle with equal chances to win against such troops. By request I will endeavor to present the above question as clearly as possible in the short space of a newspaper article at the risk of stripping much of the glamour from their eyes and cooling to some extent the glowing imaginations as to the "glories, pomp, and circumstance" of actual war which is no doubt now acting as a stimulus to the patriotism of many, pending our present national crisis with Spain. But it is to be hoped that no genuine patriotic impulse will be depressed to a point where any free born citizen would feel like shirking the duty of a soldier when called upon to sustain the honor of his country's flag or our public rights.

The experience gained by our war of the rebellion proved this fact that the enthusiastic volunteers which formed our first regiments of from 1,000 to 1,200 men in 1861 were the finest material of which to make reliable soldiers, both in intelligence and physique, that were ever organized into armies or that ever joined in the clash of arms.

From all over the north, not only the hardy woodsmen from the pine forests, the farmers, laboring men, plainmen and young men from the cities, but in addition thousands of students from our colleges and the highest schools in the land, with other men from all other professions in life, flocked to swell the ranks of these first volunteer regiments. In the south the same spirit was displayed. Let us, in retrospect, see what it took to fit the average thousand men composed of such material (fresh from the peaceful walks of life, officers and men organized into a regiment) to endure the hardships of the camp, march and strain, mental and physical, of such prolonged and destructive battles or sieges as Gettysburg, the Wilderness or Petersburg. In order that your readers may understand clearly why, in the end, before such a thousand men or a part of them can be transformed into reliable, seasoned soldiers fit for all warlike service, it will be necessary to note that on the first organization of such a regiment, a few of the officers only may be appointed or elected on the ground of experience or military ability, but the greater number are always as yet untried in camp, field, or battle; or possessed of no more knowledge of military life than the men they are to command.

The first thing is to put the regiment into camp and commence instructions in military drill and the police of the camp, guard duties, etc. Here the first soldierly habits are formed and a knowledge acquired that brings about the cohesion, mobility and confidence among officers and men which when strengthened by the discipline of the march or campaign makes such a regiment a formidable antagonist in battle. Three months of this preliminary discipline of the camp and drill has been proven short enough to prepare a regiment for the discipline of the march, scout and picket duty. When this point is reached comes the first great test of the efficiency of the regiment for active service and the qualification of its officers and men to stand whatever they may be called upon to do in the line of duty. It is in the active field campaign that the weeding out process goes on with surprising rapidity. Officers resign or are promoted and many men play out from sickness or inability to stand such a life. Others are detailed for various duties until the regiment often before it has heard a hostile shot is finally stripped down to what the old soldiers used to call its fighting weight. This usually meant that out of the 1,000 that first went into the camp of instruction only from 500 to 800 turned out after the discipline of the march had been endured, to be seasoned, confident, hardy soldiers that could be relied on

in action and everywhere else in the routine of a soldier's life.

It is often claimed by empirical military critics that green volunteer soldiers organized within a month from the time they left civil life, have stood the brunt of battle and put to shame old regulars or veteran volunteers of many hard fought campaigns. The facts are, however, that while the material for making reliable soldiers of nearly all volunteer regiments is of the best, that before they have passed through the weeding out and seasoning processes of the camp and march, such regiments rarely stand but a few minutes before the fire or vehement attacks of veteran troops. No matter how good the original material may be that composes the volunteer regiment, it takes time and a varied experience in camp and campaigning to mould it into an effective fighting force. Every officer is supposed to be brave to a fault if anything, and every soldier should be, but courage while essential like the routine of tactical drill, is comparatively a minor consideration among the qualities required of a commanding officer, and only in less proportion among all of the officers of a regiment if it is to be brought up to the highest standard as a military organization.

The growth of a soldierly pride in the name of the regiment is a potent factor in holding the rank and file to their colors under adverse conditions, and here comes in the marked effect that other qualities in connection with courage possessed by the officer in command, have upon his regiment. If he proves to be a man of quick, keen perceptive qualities, prompt, discreet and decisive in emergencies, quick to distinguish between what is essential or non-essential in discipline, or the administration of his command and who shows that he knows how to handle his men on the march and in all cases to the best advantage, without harrassing them with needless technical restraints. Then such a regiment will soon acquire a confidence in itself and its officers that will make it very dangerous to encounter by any foe. It is then easy to see what would be the effect on any regiment of a commander who was weak in these respects no matter how high his courage during the excitement of battle. Officers lacking in any great degree the most essential qualities that go to make up a fully competent leader of volunteer troops, quickly demoralize those under them and as a result such troops even with the best of material in the ranks cannot be depended upon until such officers are weeded out.

A man may be all right physically for a soldier but if he is of a morbid, quarrelsome or insubordinate disposition, he does not make a good soldier and should not volunteer.

F. A. BLAKE,

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The Scott & March Hereford Sale at Belton, Cass Co., Mo., April 13, 1898.

The visitor in quest of first-class Hereford cattle will find, if he visits the farm of Messrs. Scott & March, at Belton, Mo., 30 miles south of Kansas City, that the 100 head that have been selected out of their herd of 550 head and catalogued for their public sale, are one of as good lots of Whitefaces as may be seen in this country. The herd is run on blue grass pastures in summer and comfortably sheltered during winter months. The youngsters are handled right, so that both males and females are sure to bring profitable returns to their owners. The 100 that go into the coming sale afford a happy illustration of what the Hereford will do, and insures his great worth as a beef animal.

Perhaps this story of Mrs. Helva Lockwood is true, and perhaps it isn't, remarks the Binghamton (N. Y.) Herald: One day while traveling on the Erie road, she was calmly watching the landscape when a trainman with a high tenor voice opened the door and pined out, "Belvidere!" As Mrs. Lockwood was the only woman in the car she rose to the occasion, and demanded that the men present thrash the trainman for the offered insult. It took a good bit of eloquence to convince her that it was the name of the station that the trainman had called.

Mrs. Henry Clay Barnabee, wife of the leading comedian of the "Bostonians," has a tablecloth that is completely covered with the autographs of noteworthy persons. When any one whom she thinks worthy dines with her, she has him write his name on the cloth and afterward she etches it in with red silk. Among the autographs are those of Salvini, William Cullen Bryant, Modjeska, Yeats, Paderewski, Grover Cleveland and President McKinley.

There is one part of the world at least where bicycles do not meet with approval. This is Morocco, where the Grand Vizier has steadfastly tabooed the use of "such dangerous instruments."

The leaf of a creeping moss found in the West Indies, known as the "life plant," is absolutely indestructible by any means except immersion in boiling water or the application of a red hot iron.

Women are to the fore in educational matters in Colorado. Out of the fifty-nine counties in the state twenty-seven have women superintendents of schools, and every school board has one or two women members.

At the beginning of a recent thunder storm electrified drops were observed that cracked faintly on reaching the ground, and emitted sparks.

In Vineland, N. J., is a poet with radical views on the subject of taxation, who has gone to jail rather than pay his poll tax, amounting to \$1.30.



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Certificate of Publication.

TERRITORY OF NEW MEXICO,
Auditor's Office, Insurance Department,
Office of Auditor of Public Accounts,
Santa Fe, N. M., February 23, 1898.

For the year ending December 31, 1898.
It is hereby certified, That the Fire Association of Philadelphia, a corporation organized under the laws of the state of Pennsylvania, whose principal office is located at Philadelphia, Pa., has complied with all the requirements of Chapter 46, of the laws of New Mexico, passed in 1897, entitled "An Act regulating Insurance Companies," approved February 25, 1897, (chapter 46, Laws of '97) so far as the requirements of said Acts are applicable to said Company, for the year of our 1st One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety eight.

In testimony whereof, I, Marcelino Garcia, Auditor of Public Accounts for the Territory of New Mexico, have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal, this day and year first above written.

MARCELINO GARCIA,
[SEAL] Auditor of Public Accounts.

Synopsis of Statement of the
Fire Association of Philadelphia,
January 1, 1898.

Assets.....	\$9,127,050.03
Liabilities, including capital.....	4,815,107.46
Net surplus.....	\$1,311,942.16

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Lemon extract has become a favorite beverage with the Ponca Indians, owing to the quantity of alcohol which it contains; and it is said that they have been able to get roaring drunk on a 50-cent bottle.

The biggest rope ever used for haulage purposes has just been made for a district subway in Glasgow, Scotland, it being seven miles long, four and a half inches in circumference and weighs nearly sixty tons.

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